

From: logan@wt6.usdoj.gov@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 1:33pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing to express my disappointment with the proposed settlement of the Microsoft Antitrust suit. Microsoft has repeatedly shown that it will do anything in its power to maintain their monopoly hold on the desktop operating system market and to (ab)use this monopoly to further its penetration into other markets. Many of these abuses occurred while they were already under supervision for compliance with previous anti-competitive judgements. Indeed, Microsoft has made numerous changes in their licensing agreements since the start of this lawsuit that to further their monopoly and use their monopoly to gain advantage in other markets.

Although there is sufficient power to monitor Microsoft, the proposed settlement does not provide sufficient power to the Technical Committee to prevent further abuses by Microsoft. The Technical Committee's only recourse is to turn evidence over to the legal system. As indicated by the three years that were necessary to reach this proposed settlement, such turnaround as provided by the legal system will not protect the interests of other companies or users.

The proposed settlement does not "punish" Microsoft for their abuses. While the donation of computers to schools is a noble cause, Microsoft will hold the value of the computers donated as a tax write-off. The value of the donation is set by Microsoft, itself, and this donation allows Microsoft to push their monopolistic hold on the software used by the schools.

Finally, there is no recompense in the proposed settlement to the competitors and users harmed by Microsoft's anti-competitive practices. There are some business practices that would be prohibited under the proposed settlement, but these are not broad enough to cover the expanse of abuses that Microsoft has perpetrated against its competitors and users. Additionally, the opening of APIs does not sufficiently reduce the barrier to entry into the markets that Microsoft competes in. The listing of APIs to be opened is not broad enough, file formats are not required to be open, and the method for ISVs to request access to the APIs does not fully ensure that these APIs will reach the

ISVs in a timely-enough manner for them to be able to release compatible products to their customers.

In conclusion, I request that the current settlement proposal as written be rejected .

Sincerely,

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